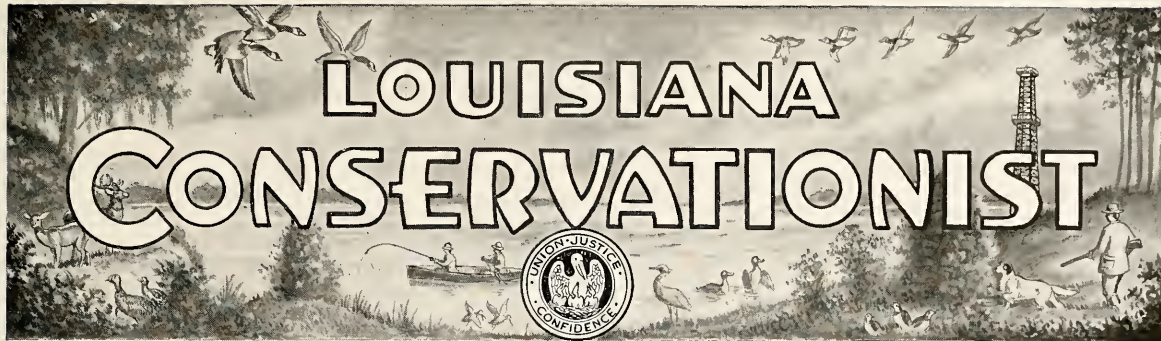




Volume 4



JANUARY, 1946

Number 2

Close Season on Game Fish in February

Louisiana's second closed season on three species of fresh water game fish for a period of sixty days will begin February 1st in 38 southern and central parishes of the State and the same closed season will be in effect in the remaining 26 parishes in the northern part of the State during the months of March and April.

The three species of game fish which are affected by the closed season are black bass ("green trout"); Striped Bass ("Yellow Bass"); and Crappie ("White perch", "speckled perch", "sac-a-lait").

The 38 parishes which will have a closed season on these three species of game fish during the months of February and March are the following:

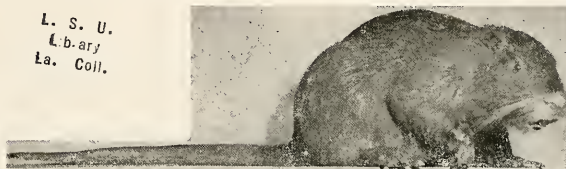
Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Tammany, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana.

The law providing these closed seasons is Act 166 of 1944. It was enacted by the Legislature during the biennial session of 1944 and went into effect for the first time February of last year. The ban last year caused considerable pro and con controversy among fishermen and sportsmen.

Officials of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department point out that since this is a legislative enactment, it can only be amended or repealed by the Legislature itself.

LOUISIANA'S NEW FUR BEARER

L. S. U.
Library
La. Coll.



—Photo courtesy Times Picayune

The Coypu or Nutria, Louisiana's newest fur bearer, has been increasing in numbers in recent years. An interesting story on this fur bearer appears on page four in this issue.

Scientific Experiments Aimed to Develop and Expand Louisiana's Oyster Production Completed

Major John Appel, Commissioner, Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, and Dr. David E. Brown, Louisiana State Department of Health, announce the completion of extensive scientific studies that have been carried out during the past five months to cooperate with the Federal Food and Drugs Administration in Washington in the establishment of equitable standards for raw shucked oysters.

The Federal Food and Drugs Administration was instructed by a Federal Court to establish standards for raw oysters entering interstate commerce. The chief matter at issue was the alleged adulteration of raw shucked oysters in certain Atlantic coast states by the addition of water. Hearings were instituted by the Federal authority to establish the requested standards and a preliminary figure of 2 to 4 per cent allowable drainage of raw shucked oysters tested under standard conditions was indicated. James N. McConnell, Director of the Division of Oysters and Water Bottoms of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department was appointed by the Oyster Institute of America to assume the entire responsibility for the institute of investigating this whole problem

to protect the interest of Louisiana's and other Gulf States' oyster production. An exhaustive research was begun, conducted by James Nelson Gowanloch, Chief Biologist, Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, William H. King, Chief of the Chemical-Toxicological Section, State Department of Health, with the additional cooperation of J. W. Forbes, Chief, Division of Food and Drugs, Frank Flynn, Chemist, State Department of Health, and Edgar F. Lindsey, In Charge, Oyster Seed Grounds, Department of Wild Life and Fisheries. These investigations constituting the critical experimental examination and in many instances careful chemical analyses, involved a study of over 18,000 oysters. The information obtained provides a solid scientific basis upon which to present Louisiana's case at a hearing held by the Federal government at Washington beginning January 15. It is clear that should the tentatively proposed Federal regulations go into effect Louisiana and other Gulf States would be completely prohibited from participation in interstate commerce in raw shucked oysters. Louisiana oysters are traditionally sold on their flavor and the

(Continued to Page 3, Column 4)

Junior Wild-Life Clubs to Be Organized

Organization of junior wildlife conservation clubs in Louisiana will get under way sometime in February, it has been announced by Commissioner John G. Appel of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries. This is the first phase of an expanded program of wildlife conservation education and public relations, which is part of the comprehensive program for development of the State's wildlife and fisheries resources announced last month.

This new educational program will be under the supervision of the Department's Division of Education and Publicity, of which Isaac D. Chapman is director. Directly in charge of the organization of junior clubs will be Walter L. Rather, Jr., who has just been added to the staff of the Division.

A former Lt. Colonel, Mr. Rather has recently been discharged from the Army after serving for more than four years. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University, and a former school teacher. His home is in Marinoguin in Iberville Parish. He taught school in Iberville Parish and also was coach of basketball and track teams and served as scoutmaster of school sponsored Scout troops.

A program for the organization of junior groups throughout the state is now being worked out. The name of the junior organizations will be decided upon later, probably by the junior club members themselves after a sufficient number of clubs have been organized. Suggested programs and projects designated to educate the youngsters in wildlife and fisheries subjects and other phases of the conservation program are being

(Continued to Page 3, Column 4)

JIMMIE H. DAVIS
Governor of Louisiana



JOHN G. APPEL
Commissioner

LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST

Published Monthly in the interest of conservation by the
Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries
126 Civil Courts Building, New Orleans, La.

ISAAC D. CHAPMAN
Editor

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Volume 4

JANUARY, 1946

Number 2

Season's First Public Fur Sale Brings \$57,602.98

A total of \$57,602.98 was realized from the first 1945-46 public sale and auction of fur pelts from state owned game preserves held Friday, January 4th, it was announced by John G. Appel, Director of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries.

The sale was held in the Department's warehouse at New Iberia and was conducted by A. P. Daspit, director of the fur and refuge division.

Included in the sale were 41,220 muskrat pelts, 381 raccoon pelts, 27 nutria, 314 mink and 6 otter pelts, which were taken from Marsh Island, State Wildlife Refuge and Rockefeller Refuge.

The muskrats, raccoons and nutria were sold at OPA ceiling prices. The furs were divided into five lots and buyers drew for the privilege of purchasing the various lots. A total of 42 licensed fur dealers were on hand and entered their names.

Lot number 1 amounting to \$14,225.28 was split up between Bach and Seiler of New Orleans and Hope Hughes of Shreveport. Lot number two amounting to \$8,483.97 was drawn by the Louisiana Frog Company of Crowley. Lot number three totaling \$15,864.92 was split between Lieber and Company of Monroe and Evi Vaughn, New Orleans. Lot number 4, totaling \$4,773.91 was drawn by J. P. Marie of Houma, and lot number 5, totaling \$8,150.90 was drawn by Mirandona Bros., of New Orleans.

A total of 314 mink and 6 otter pelts were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Harry Burg of Houma was awarded both lots for a total of \$6,104. The mink pelts sold for \$19 each and the otters for \$23 each.



—Photo by Barkemeyer

Armand P. Daspit, director of the Fur and Refuge Division of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department, reads the first name drawn from a hat box as the first public sale for the season of furs from state owned game preserves is held in the Department's warehouse in New Iberia. Holding the box containing the names of the fur dealers is Robert D. Landry, supervisor for the Division. In the background are some of the 42 dealers participating in the sale.

(Other photographs of fur sale on page 7)

Trappers participating in the catch get 65 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of furs from state owned game preserves while 35 per cent goes to the State for dedication to the Fur and Refuge Fund.

Second Fur Sale Brings \$81,052.96

A total of \$81,052.96 was realized from the second public sale of furs from state owned game preserves held Tuesday, January 15th, in New Iberia, it was announced by Commissioner John G. Appel. Included in the pelts sold, which came from Marsh Island, State Wildlife Refuge and Rockefeller Refuge, were 58,871

muskrats, 627 raccoon, 339 mink and 11 otter.

As in the first sale the muskrat and raccoon pelts were sold at ceiling prices, and fur dealers drew for the privilege of purchasing the furs which were divided into 11 lots. The mink and otter were auctioned off to the highest bidders.

Eugene J. Bernstein, New Orleans, was the highest bidder for 339 mink pelts at \$18.25 each, and S. M. Treadaway, New Orleans, was the highest bidder for 11 otter pelts at \$21 each.

Purchasers of the muskrat and raccoon pelts were the following:

Lot 1, totaling \$7,704.26, Wainer Bros. and Blackman, New Orleans; Lot 2, totaling \$6,859.16,

DIRECTORY OF DIVISION HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

John G. Appel, Commissioner

L. J. Scanlon,
Executive Assistant

H. M. Grode, Chief Accountant

J. N. Gowanloch,
Chief Biologist

Isaac D. Chapman,
Education and Publicity

J. C. LeBlanc, Enforcement

Armand P. Daspit,
Fur and Refuge

James Brown,
Fish and Game

J. N. McConnell,
Oyster and Waterbottoms

Louis Cusachs,
Research and Statistics

Harry Burg, Houma; Lot 3, totaling \$6,241.51, J. Bernstein Fur Co., New Orleans; Lot 4, totaling \$6,232.49, Ben Brownstein, New Orleans; Lot 5, totaling \$6,320.42, J. L. Ferguson Fur Company, Winnfield; Lot 6, totaling \$6,204.47, Ollie Robinson Bros., Oak Grove.

Lot 7, totaling \$6,128.58, Felix Nunez, Abbeville; Lot 8, totaling \$6,165.20, Bayles Bros. Fur Co., Monroe; Lot 9, totaling \$5,526.95, N. B. Sheets, Whiteville, La.; Lot 10, totaling \$9,460.23, St. Mary Fur Co., Morgan City; Lot 11, totaling \$7,691.94, Victory Fur Co., New Orleans.

When in a state of hibernation, a ground squirrel can be pinched, dropped from several feet in the air, and even have pins stuck in it without stirring from its sleep.

The chipping sparrow has been called the hairbird because of its fondness for horse hair which it uses for its nest.

Seek New Name for the Louisiana Conservationist

The Louisiana Conservationist wants a new name! It wants a name that will link it more closely and identify itself in the public's mind as the official publication of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries. It wants a name that will be symbolic of Louisiana's vast and growing wildlife and fisheries resources.

And it wants the sportsmen, the conservationists, and the people of Louisiana to select that new name. The contest is open to all and there are no restrictions and no age limits. School children as well as adults, members of sportsmen organizations, women garden club and civic, school and church organizations, are invited to enter the contest.

To the person submitting the name that, in the opinion of the judges, will best fill the requirements, the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries will award a \$50 Victory Bond.

Entries may be submitted on any kind of paper, either typewritten, ink or pencil. A postal card will do. The shorter the name the better.

The contest will begin on February 1st and will end on March 31st. Entries should be addressed to: Contest Editor, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans 16, La.

REASONS FOR CHANGE

As far back as there are records available, the official publications of this Department has had the name "Conservation" or "Conservationist" in its title. For many years, prior to 1942, there was a publication known as the "Louisiana Conservation Review." This was discontinued shortly before the outbreak of World War II, and a short time later, in December, 1942, the first issue of a new monthly publication appeared under the name of "Louisiana Conservationist", which is the name this publication has been using since its initial issue. All of this time, there was only one State Department in Louisiana, charged with the responsibility of supervising all of the State's natural and renewable resources. That was the Department of Conservation.

However, in November, 1944, the people of Louisiana, adopted a Constitutional Amendment, dividing the Department of Conservation into three separate State Departments. The Department, which retained the name of Conservation, was restricted in its activities, under this change, to supervising oil, gas and mineral re-

sources only. A new State Department, designated officially as the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, was entrusted with the supervision of the State's resources pertaining to fish, game, wildlife, marine resources, stream pollution, water hyacinth control, fur bearing animals, game preserves, fishing and hunting, etc. Still a third separate State Department was created known officially as the Louisiana Forestry Commission to supervise the State's forestry resources.

The "Louisiana Conservationist" started in December, 1942, when there was only one State Depart-

ment to fish and wildlife, the natural impression among many people is that it is still a part of the State Department of Conservation.

That is one of the principal reasons why the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries desires a new name for its official publication, a name that will identify it better, that will be more symbolic of its work, and that will help the people of Louisiana to know more about the fact that there are three separate State Departments supervising the State's important natural and renewable resources, and that the Department entrusted with its fish and game resources is the

SELECT A NAME FOR THE CONSERVATIONIST AND WIN A \$50 VICTORY BOND

The Louisiana Conservationist wants a new name that will typify the work and purposes of the State Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, charged by the State's Constitution with supervision over Louisiana's fish and game resources.

No box tops, wrappers or other security is necessary to enter this contest. Here are the simple rules:

1. The contest opens February 1st and ends March 31st. There are no age limits. Everyone, including employees of the State of Louisiana, are eligible to enter.
2. In submitting a new name for the Louisiana Conservationist, you may use typewriter, pencil or ink. A postal card will do. If you desire to submit reasons for the name you suggest you may do so, but it is not required.
3. Address all entries to: Contest Editor, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans 16, Louisiana.
4. To the person submitting the name that will be selected will go a \$50 Victory Bond. In the event the winning name is suggested by more than one person, the award will go to the person whose entry is received first.

ment of Conservation, has continued under that name, but with the change in the conservation set-up of the State, was absorbed by the new State Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, and since the creation of this Department, has been the official publication of this Department and the "voice" and "mirror" of the State's fish and game resources.

However, although these new Departments have been in existence in Louisiana for over a year now, there is still considerable confusion among the people as well as "purveyors of the news" and "molders of public opinion" who refer to this Department as either the Conservation Department or as a "division" of the State Conservation Department. Adding to the confusion, of course, has been the fact that the official publication of this Department, is still called "Louisiana Conservationist," and since it has been featuring news and activities pertain-

ing to fish and wildlife, the natural impression among many people is that it is still a part of the State Department of Conservation.

The people of Louisiana are invited to suggest the name. Everybody is welcome to submit entries. This publication belongs to the sportsmen, fishermen, hunters and all people who are interested in the State's fish and game resources. And they are invited to suggest the name for their publication.

1946 FISHING LICENSES ARE NOW ON SALE

Angling licenses for 1946 are now on sale at the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries' main office in New Orleans and at all sheriff's offices throughout the state. Fishing licenses are required of all persons between the ages of 15 and 60 years fishing with rod and reel. A digest of Louisiana fish laws, can be obtained at any sheriff's office.

Program Aims for Expansion of La. Oysters

(Continued from Page 1)

"liquor" that drains from them is not water but is an essential, highly nutritive and valuable part of the oyster itself.

The Department of Wild Life and Fisheries and the Department of Health are doing this scientific work for the sole purpose of insuring future development in production of Louisiana oysters and these scientific studies essential for making possible the future expansion of the Louisiana oyster industry are strictly scientific in character and have nothing to do with the present economic situation that exists in the Louisiana oyster trade.

James N. McConnell and James Nelson Gowanloch of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, and William H. King and J. W. Forbes of the State Department of Health attended the hearing in Washington and presented the results of their investigation in behalf of the State.

Junior Wild-Life Clubs to Be Organized

(Continued from Page 1)

worked out and will be presented to each club.

This new type of junior educational program has met with considerable success and enthusiasm in Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and other states. To obtain first hand information, Director Chapman and Mr. Rather have recently conferred with conservation education officials in Tennessee and Kentucky and have observed and attended club meetings of junior groups in these states.

Further details of this program as it develops will be announced in future issues. Later on when there are a sufficient number of clubs in existence, a special page or two in this publication will be devoted each month to activities and news of this junior program.

According to Commissioner Appel, this is the first time that such a far-reaching and comprehensive program of junior conservation education has ever been undertaken in Louisiana.

NUTRIA---New Fur Bearer Increasing in Numbers in State

BY ARTHUR VAN PELT

When Andrew Martin of the Little Caillou community in Terrebonne parish visited his trap lines in the marshes one morning recently, he got the surprise of his life. At the same time he wrote a new page in the story of the fur industry in Louisiana by recording the farthest-east invasion of the Louisiana marshlands up to this time by the Coypu, or Nutria, newest member on the list of fur bearing animals in the state.

For years, even for generations, the trapping and sale of furs has been one of the most important industries in Louisiana, but until recently they were mainly the same kind of furs. Muskrat has always been the leading fur bearer of the state, surpassing all other sections producing these pelts. Mink, raccoon, otter and opossum were secondary in importance. Muskrat has always been king.

But now—who can tell? A new fur seems to be entering the field and apparently insists on becoming an important trade factor throughout the state.

It all started from the importation of a few live specimens of the Coypu from South America some 10 years ago by E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island. Knowing of this valuable fur bearing ani-

mal in its native marshes of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, Mr. McIlhenny became keenly interested in it and decided to find out what it would do in Louisiana. So in 1937 he imported eight pairs of the Coypu or Nutria as they are sometimes called.

Within a short time he learned conclusively that the Louisiana marshes were very much to the

Editor's Note: The author of this revealing article, Mr. Arthur Van Pelt is a well known outdoor writer and is the conductor of the popular Times-Picayune "All Outdoors" column which appears Fridays and Sundays.

The article and the pictures are reprinted through the courtesy of the Times Picayune.

newcomers' liking. They left nothing in doubt, making themselves at home in their new environment. The Coypus quickly set up housekeeping and soon their numbers increased. It was not long before they overran their surroundings and within a few years some 50 or 60 pairs were released. Now these animals are spreading out and have traveled far for mammals of this type.

The migration of the animals from their starting point at Avery Island only eight years ago is, in fact, most remarkable. Up to now captures have been reported from Morgan City, in St. Mary parish, from Marsh Island in Iberia, Abbeville, Chenier au Tigre, Pecan Island and Lake Arthur in Vermilion parish and even in the marshes along the Sabine river.

The passage followed by the animals to reach many of these locations must have necessitated the crossing of broad stretches of water and in the trip eastward as far as Terrebonne, the animal taken by Andrew Martin surely had to swim the wide, deep Atchafalaya river and make its way across at least 35 miles of marsh, bayous and lagoons. Verily the Coypu is a traveler, a voyageur and an adventurer.

Most of the Coypus captured have been taken in deep marshes, consisting of saw-grass, yellow cut-grass, bull-whip cat-tail and other deep marsh vegetation. They have also been taken along canals where alligator grass is abundant. They live in burrows along the canals, and in the deep marshes they build nests in the

same manner that the muskrat does.

The Coypu in appearance is midway between a muskrat and a beaver and is sometimes called a "swamp beaver." It has a bodily resemblance to a muskrat, but it is many times larger. The tail of the Coypu is somewhat different from the muskrat, being round instead of compressed from side to side. No wonder Andrew Martin was astonished when he found one, very much alive and extremely dissatisfied at being caught in his trap.

According to the history of the Coypu there seems to be little danger that their increasing numbers will have any disastrous effects upon the native fur animals. There is, according to available information, a considerable difference, in both feeding and home making habits. Whereas the muskrats appear to feed and thrive best on the finer marsh grasses, such as the three square grass, the roots of bull-rushes, etc., the Coypu seems to relish the coarser grasses, and occasionally varies this diet. Although primarily a vegetarian, it is said that it also eats shell fish. The adults of the species grow to 30 to 40 inches in length, the tail being some 15 inches long.

Fur of the Coypu is known on the market as Nutria and is important in the world's fur trade. It is brown in color with a soft, velvety undercoat and longer rather harsh guard hairs. The outer coat is sometimes plucked, leaving a beautiful soft fur. Experts state that the skin is not quite as strong and durable as the muskrat, but it provides a very satisfactory fur. Nutria is being used a great deal in the making of felt hats.

The Coypu seems to adapt itself readily to conditions under captivity and reproduces normally. It has been introduced into various portions of Europe and bred there for many years. Now it seems that it is going to be an important factor in the fur industry of the Southern states.

At present Louisiana trappers will place their main dependence on the good old muskrat, mink and the raccoon.

During the past century muskrat skins have risen in price from
(Continued to Page 8, Column 4)



Comparative sizes are indicated in the above photograph for the beaver (in background), muskrat (at left) and nutria. Coypu is the scientific name for this furbearer and the fur from this mammal is known as nutria. These are mounted specimens in the Wild Life and Fisheries museum operated by the Division of Education and Publicity.

Wild Life and Fisheries Program Widely Approved

The program for the development and expansion of Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries resources announced last month through the newspapers and in this publication has been received with wide-spread interest and approval by the people of Louisiana, judging from newspaper comments and from letters received since that time by the Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

Most enthusiasm seems to have been voiced for the Department's announced water hyacinth and fish restocking projects, but all phases of the program have come in for favorable comment and approval.

In expressing approval of the program, most newspaper columnists stressed the important fact that the cooperation of the sportsmen and conservationists of the State will be needed to make the program a success, and also that legislative approval in the form of increased appropriations will be necessary to put the entire program across.

Here are excerpts of newspaper and editorial comment on the Wild Life and Fisheries development program:

Val Flanagan in his Fishin' 'n Huntin' Column in the New Orleans States:

"Sportsmen generally have acclaimed the state's proposed program for the development, protection and propagation of its wildlife and fisheries resources. Of particular interest to them were the plans to rid Louisiana's bayous of the dreaded water hyacinth and alligator grass and the opening of managed public shooting grounds, both of which have long been needed."

Paul Kalman, in his "Outdoors in Louisiana" Column in the New Orleans Item:

"The recent announcement of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department was warmly received by New Orleans sportsmen. By far, the points of the plan which most directly affect the local fisherman and hunter are the enlarged fish restocking and fish rescue project and the proposed purchase of 6 new master units for the destruction and control of water hyacinth.

"Receding waters of the Mississippi River every year leave hundreds of thousands of game fish of all sizes trapped between the old batture and the levees, in abandoned backwashers and in barrow pits. During the hot summer months, these places often dry up completely or become so stagnant

that they cannot support piscatorial life. As a result, sportsmen of the State are denied much future sport, due to the inroads of nature.

"According to Commissioner John G. Appel, the new program will provide for the purchase of additional aerated fish trucks, seines and equipment, and the employment of special crews to rescue these trapped fish and to transfer them to fishing lakes throughout the State.

"Every bit as timely as fish rescue is the proposal to eliminate water hyacinth from the waters of

THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES PROGRAM

For the benefit of those who did not see the detailed announcement of the program for the development of Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries resources which appeared in this publication and in the press last month, here is a thumbnail sketch of the program which contemplates:

1. Control of the water hyacinth.
2. Predator Control.
3. Enlarged fish rescue and fish restocking.
4. Expansion of wildlife and fisheries education and public relations.
5. Enlarged enforcement program.
6. Establishment of public shooting grounds.

the State. Many streams which 10 years ago offered fine bass and sunfish angling, are so choked with hyacinth today as to make fishing impossible.

"Another announcement deals with a long range improvement program for Marsh Island involving the expenditure of \$153,000. The project calls for the planting of duck and goose food, repairing of trappers' camps, reworking eight existing water wells and digging two new wells, installation of patrol boats, barges and equipment, and the repair and drainage of areas eaten up by muskrats and geese. When work is completed, the 79,000-acre game and wildlife preserve will be one of the finest in the United States."

Arthur Van Pelt, in his column "All Outdoors," in the New Orleans Times Picayune:

"Sportsmen of Louisiana are keenly interested in the recent announcement by Commissioner John G. Appel of the State Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of the very comprehensive program planned by the Department.

"The program is a splendid one and is especially notable in being the first thoroughly planned campaign designed to cure a number of long neglected conditions as well as to start work along several lines that mean much for the future of outdoor sport within the state.

"Under six headings the program contemplates:

- 1.—Control of the water hyacinth; 2.—Predator control; 3.—Enlarged fish rescue and fish restocking; 4.—Enlarged program of wildlife fisheries education and public relations; 5.—Enlarged enforcement program; 6.—Establishment of public shooting grounds.

"It seems like a well balanced plan, with every section becoming an interlocking part of the whole. At first glance, sportsmen are especially interested in items numbers 1 and 6; control of the water hyacinth and kindred water plants which impede navigation, destroy whole areas of waterfowl feeding areas and are otherwise harmful, and the plan to establish additional public shooting grounds.

"Both are of the highest importance. They are the two items which, perhaps are closer to the heart, eyes and mind of the average sportsman than are the others. However, all of the items of the programs are necessary component parts of the whole and deserve the fullest cooperation and backing of each individual sportsman of the state as well as of every organized group.

"One thing that deserves plenty of thought, however, is the necessity of providing sufficient funds to insure carrying out the program to completion. Money is available with which to start the work, it appears, but a much greater amount is going to be necessary to finish it. To get the necessary funds, legislative action will be necessary and the full strength of that great army of Louisianians who love the outdoors and all that is in it should be placed solidly behind such legislation

as will undoubtedly be formulated to provide these funds.

"The perpetuation of our wild life, its protection and increase, the elimination of its enemies in whatever form, the continuance and improvement of our fine hunting and fishing and the desire to pass on to future generations the blessings that are ours today are matters of the highest importance to every resident of the state and should be recognized as such. The plan is made. Once started, the work should not lag for lack of public interest and the wherewithal to finish it."

Editorial in the New Orleans Item, under the heading "Real Conservation":

"As far as words go, a program for enlarging Louisiana's wildlife resources, just made public by Commissioner John Appel, is the most constructive and comprehensive one formulated by the Conservation Department since its organization in 1912.

"The objects of the plan are control of water hyacinths, control of predatory animals, more fish-rescue and re-stocking, stronger enforcement powers, better education and expansion of public hunting-grounds.

"This concerns by no means only the sportsmen, but everybody. The hyacinth pest has become a serious menace not merely to fish, but to small-boat transportation in many sections having no other means of going from place to place.

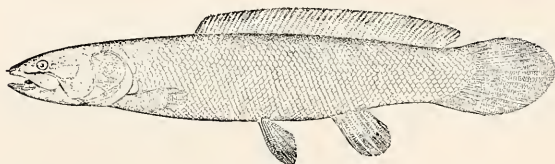
"Predator-control vitally concerns our enormous trapping industry, whose annual harvest runs high in the millions. Fish-rescue work means halting the shameful waste of an abundant food-resource, commercially as well as for the sportsmen.

"And no finer tourist attraction than public shooting-grounds, under good non-political management, could be found. The one shooting-club we had, at Pass a Loutre, when redeemed from its ghastly mismanagement by the Long regime, which operated it at public expense as a private club for favored politicians. It drew hundreds to Louisiana during the duck-seasons of 1940 and '41—before war closed it.

"The plan made public by Mr. Appel is excellent also in that provision appears to have been made for financing these improvements. Now for action."

KNOW YOUR LOUISIANA FISH

By JAMES NELSON GOWANLOCH,
Chief Biologist, Fish and Game Division,
Louisiana Department of Wild Life & Fisheries



BOWFIN

No 16 *Amia calva* (Linnaeus)

Other Names: Bowfin, Choupique (Louisiana) (given in certain official books as Choupiquel), Poisson marais, Lake Lawyer, Truite Cypriere, and Cottonfish.

Range: Great Lakes, Mississippi Valley to Virginia, south to Florida and west to Texas. Commonest in lakes and sluggish streams.

Size: 1½ to 2 feet. Top size 2 feet, 12 pounds.

Identification: The peculiar body shape, long, low dorsal fin and odd tail fin mark this fish off clearly.

Description: Dark olive, part blackish above, paler below. Sides with traces of reticulate markings. Lower jaw and gular (jaw) plate often with long blackish spots. Fins mostly dark, somewhat mottled. Male has a peculiar round black spot at each side of upper base of tail fin. This spot, surrounded by orange or yellowish, is entirely missing in the female.

Food: Specific studies showed a diet of 96 per cent fish, 3 per cent crayfish, the balance miscellaneous. Young Bowfin (minnows), because of their toughness, are often used in the North as trotline bait.

Bait: Frogs, minnows, and spoons.

Value: Bowfin give a hard fight but give up suddenly so provide poor sport. Flesh is too soft to be palatable unless smoked.

General: Like the Gars, Sturgeons, and the Paddlefish, the Bowfin is the existing representative of a very ancient family of which in-

deed it is the only survivor. Few fish have given rise to more popular legends than has the Bowfin. The curiosity of these legends is matched in fact by some of the truly strange habits of this animal. Legends include the story that Bowfins are cross breeds between fishes and snakes. They are, needless to say, simply fish. The story that cooked Bowfins left overnight become mysteriously raw again is equally fictional.

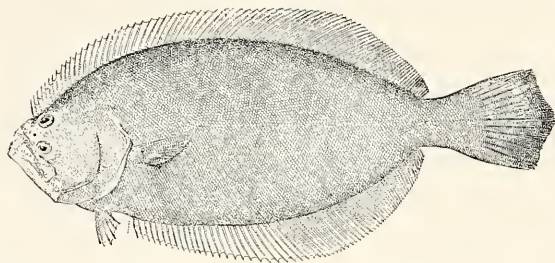
Truths about Bowfins are just about as wierd. Bowfins are so tough that they can survive when trapped in mud through river overflows until the water has receded and the land has become dry enough for cultivation. The writer encountered one authenticated case where in a single afternoon a farmer plowed up 19 living Bowfin in one field. The Bowfin has a cellular air bladder, lunglike in structure, opening to the esophagus, which functions in respiration. Bowfin are savage and powerful, capable of cutting a 2-pound fish completely in two with a single snap of their jaws. They are correspondingly destructive of single species and their presence in ponds or lakes means heavy destruction of commercial and game fish.

Bowfin have curious breeding habits. A 5 pound, 19 inch female contained 23,600 eggs, while another specimen, only 21 inches long contained 64,000. The eggs, laid in a hollow torn out, in mud or sand, are deposited at night and attached to exposed rootlets. When the young hatch they develop a curious adhesive structure on their snouts by means of which they continue to cling to the roots or to the bottom. Dogfish are poor food but in times of fish scarcity, such as during wars, methods of smoking the fish have been developed that permit their reasonably agreeable use. Split and dried they are utilized in making jumalaya.

Young Bowfin to be used for bait can be kept all summer in a rain barrel without change of water. The Bowfin have been known to live for 36 years in an aquarium.

One or two Bowfin are often included in live shipments of Carp, since they serve to keep the Carp stirred up and prevent them from suffocating.

It is of interest to note that there is a postoffice named Choupique in Calcasieu Parish.



No. 17 SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

Paralichthys lethostigma (Jordan and Gilbert)

Other Names: None.

Range: South Atlantic and Gulf Coast. Occurs north to New York.

Size: Usually 15 to 24 inches. Thirty-six inch specimens, weighing 25 pounds have been taken. Usual size 5 pounds. Studies of tagged flounders reveal a tendency of this species to return to the same area season after season. Gunter's valuable observations show that Southern Flounders occur at all seasons in the bays along the Gulf Coast but he has taken them out in the Gulf in shrimp trawls only in March and April. Along the Texas coast Gunter found Flounders with developing roe in October, while young fish 3/5 to 1 3/5 inches in length were captured in December, February, March and April. He believes 12 inch fish are probably 1 year old.

Identification: This is much the largest of our common flounders.

Description: Body ovate, more or less compressed and opaque; no definite spots. Mouth wide; oblique with jaw (mandible) very heavy and quite projecting. Dusky olive above; underneath white. Few dark mottlings.

Food: Mullet, Anchovies, Pinfish, Mojarras, shrimp and stone crabs are reported by Gunter as identified food.

Bait: Flounders can be taken on shrimp or live minnows, often they will strike metal squids or Japanese feathers. Green or shedder crabs, clams, and blood-worms are also reportedly good bait. When fishing with light tackle a very heavy fly rod, heavy trout leader,

small sinker and a float so adjusted that the bait will be practically on the bottom are recommended. If the cork is permitted to drift with the tide, the thus moving bait appears to be especially attractive.

Value: Excellent. One of the finest salt water fish.

General: The Southern Flounder is one of the most desirable of our food fishes and provides a real prize for the casual sportsman. Taken on light tackle it can well give occasion for much excitement; while taken, on the other hand, by the picturesque method of "flambeauxing" it provides many an unforgettable night.

Flounders have the habit of backing themselves into the sand so that the edges of their flat bodies are covered and their matching colors cause them to become highly inconspicuous. Provided with a kerosene-soaked flambeau and a flounder spear, the sportsman seeks his flounders at night in shallow water into which they have come to feed. The only danger involved in such torch fishing operations is that of being spiked by sting rays, but with caution this hazard can be avoided.

Flounders exhibit one of the most extraordinary chapters in fish development. Flounders start off possessed of a normal fish shape and carriage but early in the course of their development they come to lie permanently on one side and the eye on the under side actually migrates through the head so that both eyes appear on the now upper surface which, in the case of the Southern Flounder, is the original left side. Other strange modifications accompany these remarkable changes and the ultimate disposition of the animal's internal organs in a compact mass far forward makes the fish one very easily prepared for the table.

Flounders possess astonishing powers to adjust their colors to their surroundings, a process accomplished peculiarly through the response of their eyes. Elaborate experiments performed upon certain species of Flounders have proven that if the Flounder be placed in an aquarium, the floor of which is black with but a slight white area around the fish's head, the whole flounder will promptly become white, showing vividly against the general black background. Certain species will assume a wide range of color adjustment all the way from bright browns to deep blues. Furthermore, absurd as it may seem, if by altering backgrounds a flounder is shown a polka dot black and white pattern he will become polka dot, or subsequently, a checkerboard pattern, he will become checkerboard. Still further, flounders that are kept in glass-bottomed tanks continuously lighted from below will develop color and pattern on the normally white underside.

Some species of flatfish develop so that they lie on their left side, other species on their right. Because of its small mouth a 1/0 to 1/2 hook should be used for this flounder. A 9 thread line is sufficient.



WITH THE MEN IN THE FIELD

Reports of Arrests and Activities of Wild Life Enforcement Agents



PARISHES IN WHICH VIOLATIONS OCCURRED DURING DECEMBER

Acadia	Morehouse
Allen	Plaquemines
Assumption	Pointe Coupee
Avoyelles	Rapides
Bienville	Richland
Calcasieu	St. Bernard
Caldwell	St. Charles
Cameron	St. James
Claiborne	St. John
Concordia	St. Landry
E. Baton Rouge	St. Mary
East Carroll	St. Tammany
Iberville	Tangipahoa
Jefferson	Tensas
Jefferson Davis	Terrebonne
Lafourche	Vermilion
Lincoln	Vernon
Madison	W. Baton Rouge
	West Carroll

B. P. LeBlanc	6
Louis Leleux	10
Jessie Laird	17
S. P. Maxwell	2
J. O. Mayeaux	4
R. S. Millikin	13
Earl Nugent	11
Sam Nunez	50
Wilfred Nunez	5
Chas. Olano	5
Robt. Pertuis	5
Armand J. Petit	1
W. J. Plattsmier	7
Frang Ragas	4
Cliff Reeves	31
Harry Reno	14
Geo. Sevario	4
Lawrence Sintes	45
T. W. Stewart	5
Allen Swayze	2
Oliver Taunton	1
Frank Trocchiano	48
Frank Terrebonne	5
Chas. Ventrella	3
Hector Waguesspack	5
John P. Walters	2

AGENTS PARTICIPATING IN DECEMBER ARRESTS

Clifton C. Ardoin	1
J. W. Bates	13
Angelo Benandi	45
Lupton J. Bergeron	10
Joseph Billiot	48
Levert H. Bird	1
John Busalacchi	57
Jas. Carroll	5
Edward Carline	1
A. B. Calhoun	4
Leo Casard	5
Louis Cabirac	11
Sam Chaze	9
Edgar J. B. Clement	12
Richard Clement	31
Ernest Coats	8
Fred Cook	2
Alva Cooley	8
Mark B. Cooper	1
Ben C. Dahlen	11
Less Davis	1
Ruben Davis	1
G. W. Deloach	2
Tom Duck	16
Edwin D. Fairbanks	3
Marvin J. Fallin	1
D. L. Farrar	6
John E. Foolkes	2
T. H. Forman, Jr.	1
John W. Gilbert	4
Cecil Gilmore	3
Allen Hawsey	3
E. B. Head	7
Lesma Hebert	11
Clarence Hood	11
P. F. Huddleston	1
Volidia Jones	4
Wm. M. Jones	5

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING DECEMBER

Angling Without a License	
Using Illegal Tackle on Game Fish	
Commercial Fishing — Illegal Tackle	
Dredging Oysters on Private Bedding Ground	
Hunting Without a License	
Hunting at Night	
Hunting With Rifle	
Hunting With Unplugged Gun	
Hunting Migratory Waterfowl—Illegal Hours	
Hunting Migratory Waterfowl from Motorboat	
Exceeding Legal Limit of Waterfowl	
Hunting Doves Out of Season	
Interfering With Officer	
Killing Song Birds	
Hunting on State Preserves	
Possessing Firearms on State Preserves	
Hunting Deer Out of Season	
Hunting Doe Deer	
Hunting Quail Out of Season	
Hunting Without Federal Stamp	
Hunting Snipe	
Hunting Grebe	
Hunting Ducks from Motor Boat	
Trapping Without a License	
Trapping—Possessing Fur	
Trapping Out of Season	
Trapping on State Preserves	



—Photo by Barkemeyer

In the above photograph, a group of buyers are seen sorting and stacking the lot of fur pelts they have just purchased preparatory to shipping them from the Department's warehouse.

Killing Fur Bearing Animal With Gun
Non-Resident—Trapping on Resident License

31st; on Woodcock, December 29th; and on rails and gallinules, December 15th.

State's Hunting Season Just About Over

Louisiana's hunting season is virtually at an end, and the consensus of opinion among hunters is that it has been one of the most successful in many years. With three or four exceptions, the legal season is over for practically all game.

The season on Bob White will continue through February 20th, on rabbits through February 28th, on chipmunks through January 31st and on doves through January 31st.

On all other game the season is closed. The last legal date for shooting ducks, geese and coots was January 20th. Hunters are reminded that they are permitted to possess the legal limit of migratory game for 90 days after the close of the season on January 20th.

The season on squirrels ended January 15th; on deer, January 1st; on bears, December

When the season on rabbits closes February 28th, there will be no legal open season in Louisiana until next Fall, with the exception of 15 days in April, when there is an open season on Wild Turkey Gobblers from April 1st through the 15th.

The trapping season on all fur-bearing animals, except muskrats ended on January 20th, while the season for muskrats will continue through February 15th.

BEAGLE CLUB IS STARTED IN BATON ROUGE

The Pelican State Beagle Club of Baton Rouge, with a membership of 45 members, held its first A.K.C. Sanction field trial 10 miles north of Baton Rouge on Scenic Highway on December 15-16. This is the only Beagle Club in Louisiana and new members are coming in from all over the state.

The trial was judged by W. A. Lawson of Monroe and Paul Carriere of Baton Rouge. A total of 46 dogs were entered in the trial and the entries were from New Orleans, Monroe, Alexandria, Franklinton, Plaquemine, Baton Rouge and other towns.

Growing Forest Seedlings Year Round Project

The December issue of the CONSERVATIONIST carried an article outlining the points to be considered in selecting a good seedling nursery site and the physical equipment that was necessary to make it a modern operation. This article takes up the growth and production of tree seedlings.

Pine seedlings for field plantings are grown from seeds which are found in pine cones taken from thrifty or mature trees. These cones are collected during the fall of the year around logging operations, or actually picked from trees yet standing. At the time of collection, the cones are mature, but have not yet begun to open for release of the seed.

The cones are usually sacked in bushel lots and either trucked or shipped to the nursery where they

For purposes of explanation, a bushel of cones usually yields from one half to one pound of seed. When cones are purchased, rather than gathered, they are generally worth approximately fifty to eight-five cents per bushel. Seed are often purchased by the nursery from other agencies at a cost of about two dollars per pound.

The preparation of the seedling beds begins in the late fall and is continuous through the planting season. A bed to be planted has been thoroughly cultivated and shaped to a size of four by one hundred feet. Sometimes, a fifty-foot bed is desirable, but the four-foot width is generally standard. Usually, the seeds are placed in the beds in one of three ways: broadcast sown all over the surface of the bed; in drills across the bed at four to six inch intervals; or in drills running lengthwise of the bed and at four to six inch intervals. The manner of seedling will determine the number of seedlings produced, but it can generally be said that one acre of seed beds will grow 500,000 pine seedlings. Regardless of the manner of seeding, the objective is to have the seeds firmly pressed into the smooth surface of the bed with a very shallow layer of soil for the covering. The seeding, which begins in January, should be completed by March first, for nurseries in this section.

After the beds have been seeded, they must be mulched, or covered with some type material to preserve the moisture, regulate the temperature and stimulate germination. Burlap is commonly used for this purpose, though straw is suitable, and even clean sand under some conditions. The mulching material, if straw or burlap, is removed after three to six weeks when the young shoots have just begun to show through the surface.

For the ensuing three to four months after removal of the mulch, two major operations are in almost continuous activity. These are weeding, most of which has to be done by hand among the tender plants, and watering, which is generally accomplished through an overhead sprinkler system. Birds sometimes present trying problems when they attack the beds in great numbers to peck the tender plants. The beds must constantly be inspected for the prevalence of certain diseases which would call for technical treatment.

The lifting or digging of the seedlings, which have attained an average height of twelve inches during their nine or ten months

growth in the beds, is usually coincidental with the opening of the planting season. For Louisiana, the best time to carry out field plantings is during the months of December, January and February. Therefore, digging begins around the middle of November and continues through those three months. The best weather for both digging and planting is a cool, damp atmospheric condition.

Digging seedlings in the nursery is a major operation that requires a great amount of planning, coordination and arduous labor. One short phase of it is done by machine, but the vast majority of the work must be done by hand. A tractor-drawn device known as the "lifter" is pulled lengthwise of the bed. As it moves, a heavy, sharp blade is drawn under the bed at a depth of approximately ten inches. In effect, it loosens the soil around the roots of the plant and makes them easily removed by hand. By kneeling as they work, laborers pull the individual trees by hand and place them under a wet moss cover in trays to be carried to the grading and packing shed.

This phase of the operation involves the selection of the suitable individuals for field planting and a culling of those that are either unfit for replanting or field stock. "Replants" are those seedlings which have not grown enough to survive in the field, but which will make good stock if given another year's growth in the nursery. They are reset by other crews carrying on their work simultaneously with that of lifting.

The planting stock is sorted into lots of 1,000 trees and bundles for shipment to the field. The roots are layered with and encased in a damp, mossy substance to prevent drying out. The entire bundle is wrapped in heavy burlap or paper and baled with strong wire. The little fellows that have had less than one year in this premature home are then on their way to a new and permanent home, and marked with a tag that reads: "FOREST TREE SEEDLINGS—DO NOT DELAY—PREVENT FOREST FIRES."

NATIONAL OUTDOOR EDITORS VISIT STATE

Bob Becker, editor of Outdoorsman, and on the sports staff of the Chicago Tribune, and Jimmie Robinson, associated with Sports Afield, recently visited Louisiana to make a survey of game conditions and study facilities for public hunting. They were accompanied by officials of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

Nutria—New Fur Bearing Animal Increasing in La.

(Continued from Page 4)

six cents each, to eight and 10 cents, then to 25, 50 and \$1. In the lush years of the middle 20's they rose to a high of \$2.75 per pelt.

At this time, thousands of Louisiana men, women and children are in the marshes reaping the fur harvest. Annually they go forth, leaving their city or village homes to go to much less comfortable quarters for the winter months to gather the riches from the swamps, marshes and forested sections. In the good years when fur animals are plentiful and high prices prevail, their efforts are rewarded by a rich harvest.

The trapper has to work hard to make good. He leaves his camp before dawn, rubber booted and wearing as light clothing as possible for walking the marshes is a real man's job, and extra clothing is a burden. He visits 200 to 250 traps to pick up his catch. One by one he resets each trap and comes home to eat and rest.

Then to work again—skinning his catch, stretching the pelts, what not. The boys help, if any are present; so does Mrs. Trapper, who also has her job of washing, mending, cooking and all the other household jobs, as well as the extra ones that trapping and marsh life seem to bring.

It is not all monotonous either. Visitors stop by now and then to talk and exchange news. The fur buyer's regular trips to collect the furs are looked forward to. He brings mail, groceries, supplies and the latest gossip. A rise in prices brings joy to the marsh people.

ANTI-FIREARMS BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

According to Raymond J. Brown, editor of Outdoor Life, the anti-firearms fanatics have had another sneak bill introduced in the U. S. Senate. Its number is S.1678.

It provides that every rifle, shotgun or pistol of more than .25 calibre manufactured since 1899 be registered with the F. B. I. under penalty of a \$2,000 fine or imprisonment for one year or both.

The editor of Outdoor Life states that if sportsmen and hunters want to keep their guns, they should not permit this bill to be passed.

are spread out to dry and open in sheds especially built for the purpose. In some cases, the cones are placed in kilns to speed up the drying process. After opening, the cones are ready for seed removal.

The cones are next placed in a shaker, which is a large, cylindrical drum with solid ends mounted on an axle and enclosed by wire with one-quarter inch openings. Upon rotation, the cones bounce against each other and the wire to shake out the seed. The openings in the wire permit passage of the seed down into a container placed underneath the shaker.

The empty cones can be sold to novelty manufacturers for around twenty-five cents per bushel. The seed is a small, brownish-tan, hard coated object with a frail wing, approximately one inch long, attached to one end. It is necessary, or desirable, to remove this wing. This is done at the "de-winging" machine which simply rubs the seed together under moderate pressure to break off the wing. The cleaning device next separates the seed from the wings and clean seed come from this machine. They are now to be packaged and stored under exacting conditions of temperature and moisture to await the planting season.